

I am writing to urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing misleading charges on my monthly phone bill so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including CU. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Many consumers are, as am I -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills need to be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. With this practice being tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount on the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will only work if consumers can accurately compare prices. Please call on the FCC to immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in violation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit carriers from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.